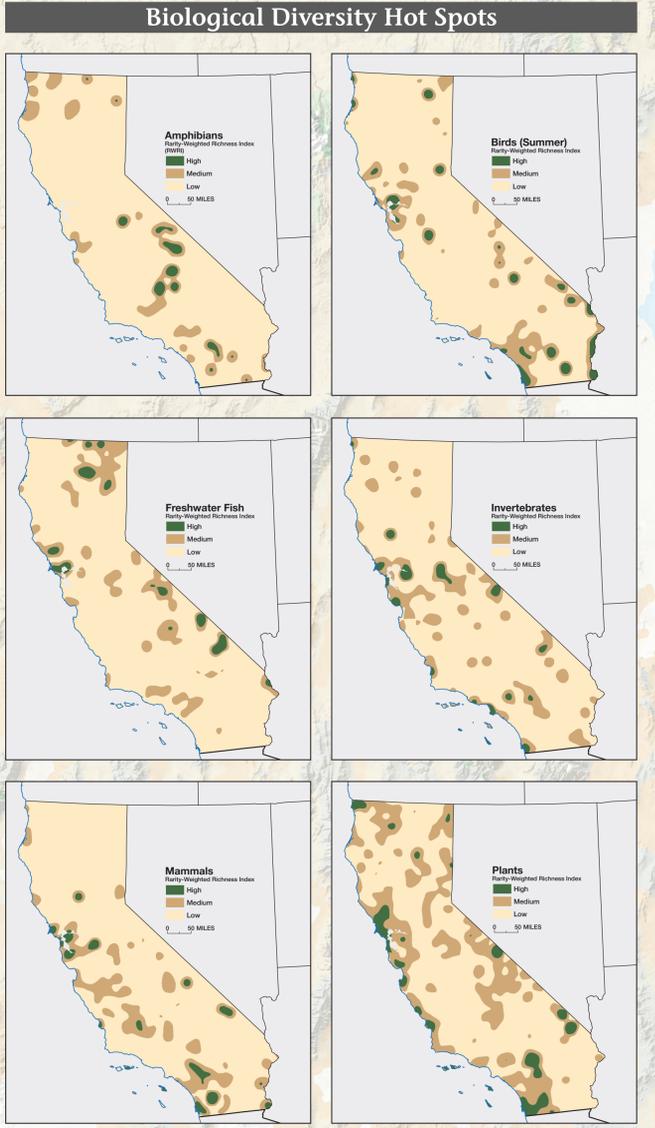




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This series of maps uses a "Rarity-Weighted Richness Index," or RWRI, to depict the distribution of rare plants and animals by combining two measures that determine the importance of their location. Areas that contain a large number of different rare species, or that contain species that only occur in one or a few areas, have a high RWRI. Areas with fewer rare species, or rare species that also occur in other areas, have a low index.

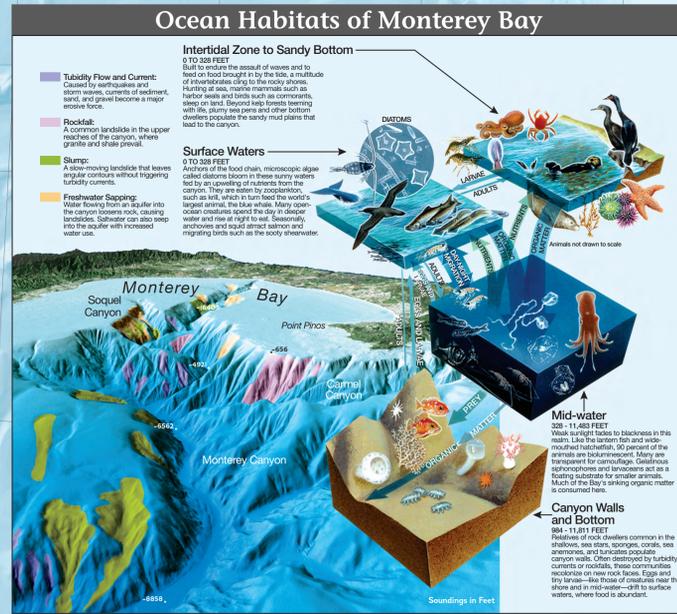
Areas may have few rare species for a variety of reasons, including the amount of human development. For example, much of the Central Valley has been converted to agriculture and no longer supports a high number of rare species. On the other hand, even though much of the San Francisco Bay Area has been converted to human uses, this region supports a very high number of species that only occur there, and now are limited to small fragments of remaining habitat.

The RWRI helps identify areas that are important to the conservation of rare plants and animals. Identifying rarity hotspots in California is particularly important because the state is home to about one third of the species found in the continental United States.

#### Richness in California and the United States

	Total Number in California	Total Number in the United States	Percent of United States Total in California
Vascular Plant Taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties)	6,272	15,880	39%
Amphibian Species	51	231	22%
Reptile Species	84	283	30%
Bird Species (Regularly-occurring)	433	716	60%
Mammal Species	107	416	26%
Freshwater Fish Species	67	799	8%

- ### Natural Vegetation
- Alpine**
    - 1 Alpine Meadow
  - Subalpine**
    - 2 California Mixed Evergreen
    - 3 Cedar, Hemlock, Douglas-Fir, Spruce
    - 4 Lodgepole Pine
    - 5 Mixed Conifer
    - 6 Ponderosa Pine
    - 7 Red Fir
  - North Coastal Forests**
    - 8 Redwood
  - Mediterranean Scrubland**
    - 9 Chaparral
  - Oak Woodland**
    - 10 Oak
  - Great Basin**
    - 11 Juniper, Pinyon
    - 12 Juniper Steppe
    - 13 Sagebrush
  - Central Valley Grassland**
    - 14 Annual
    - 15 Mountain
    - 16 Wet
  - Mojave Desert and High Desert**
    - 17 Desert Shrub
  - Colorado Desert and Low Desert**
    - 18 Desert Shrub, Sparse Vegetation
  - Water**
    - Lakes, Rivers, Streams



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